

County of Los Angeles
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES

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December 3, 2007

TO: Each Supervisor

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'P. Browning', written over a light blue horizontal line.

FROM: Philip L. Browning, Director

SUBJECT: 2007 HUNGER CHAMPION PROGRAM – HONORABLE MENTORS

This is to inform you that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has selected DPSS' Wilshire Special District and South Family District as 2007 Hunger Champion Honorable Mentors. The Food Stamp Outreach Coalition was formed by the USDA in 2003, and consists of national organizations working to end hunger and promote the benefits of the Food Stamp Program.

The Food Stamp Hunger Champions Program honors local Food Stamp offices that provide exemplary service in assisting eligible participants obtain Food Stamps. The goal of the program is to recognize and support those local offices with Food Stamp professionals, who embrace the mission of the Food Stamp Program "to increase food security and to reduce hunger by providing children and low-income people with food, a healthy diet and nutrition education."

The two Food Stamp Hunger Champion Mentors and eight Honorable Mentor awardees were announced by the USDA in October 2007. I have attached, for your information, the USDA release.

PLB:SB

Attachment

c: Chief Executive Officer
County Counsel
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors



2007 Food Stamp Hunger Champions

For more information, please visit our website at <http://www.fns.usda.gov/fsp/outreach/default.htm>



MENTORS

Department of Economic Security Family Assistance, Sierra Vista, AZ: Uses a rapid response team in case of major layoffs in the community; interpreters that speak Spanish, German, Vietnamese and sign language; partnerships with grocery stores to hand out applications and with farmers' markets to accept food stamps / EBT cards; and home visits for those who cannot make it to the office.

Hennepin County Human Services and Public Health Department (HSPHD), Minneapolis, MN: Hosts an annual *Navigating the Waters* event which educates more than 50 community agencies on helping clients with the application process, publishes a food stamp outreach newsletter, and conducts regular trainings to local community and faith-based organizations on how to refer clients to the Program.

HONORABLE MENTORS

Essex County Division of Welfare, Essex, NJ: Purchased a mobile outreach van in 2006. The van has a bilingual driver, is equipped with wireless internet and a copier so applications can be transmitted online, and has private offices to conduct interviews. The van served 550 people in four months at 80 sites.

Orange County Social Services Agency, (Santa Ana and Anaheim Regional Centers), CA: Partners with a community based organization to provide "Food Stamps in Four Hours" workshops. The organization identifies people at food distribution sites, pre-screens clients, assists with the application, and provides transportation to the workshop. The model is successful in reaching the Hispanic population.

Albany Department of Social Services, Food Stamp and Energy Programs Division, Menands, NY: Participated as an active member of the Nutrition Consortium of New York State's Senior Nutrition Assistance Program Workgroup since 2004. Seniors are exempt from finger imaging and face-to-face interviews.

Catawba County Department of Social Services Food Assistance Unit, Hickory, NC: Created an overflowing basket of food to demonstrate how much the minimum benefit can buy for seniors. Staff takes the basket to events for seniors to visually give them an incentive to apply for food stamp benefits.

Los Angeles County Department of Public Social Services (Wilshire Special District #10 and South Family District #31), Los Angeles, CA: Responds by visiting 10 to 14 community sites each month. Applicants are interviewed, verification documents are collected, and applications are then processed back at the office.

Renton Community Services Office, Renton, WA: Offers same day appointments. Essentially, all clients are treated as if they qualify for expedited service. The office also keeps a supply of food bags which are available to anyone in need.

Merced County Human Services Agency, Merced, CA: Developed a two-day training for community partners on food stamp eligibility. The training includes onsite simulation of application processing, including the use of the pre-screening tool.

San Antonio Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC), San Antonio, TX: Developed a strong partnership with the local food bank. The partnering food bank delivers all food stamp applications, from 16 counties, to this office for processing.

HUNGER CHAMPIONS

- Alameda County Social Services, Oakland, CA
- Ashtabula County Department of Job and Family Services, Ashtabula, OH
- Barbour County Food Stamp Office, Clayton, AL
- Baltimore City Department of Social Services Change Center, Baltimore, MD
- Buchanan County Department of Human Services, Independence, IA
- Bucks County Assistance Office, Warminster, PA
- Carbon County Department of Family Services, Rawlins, WY
- Cuyahoga County Department of Job and Family Services, Cleveland, OH
- Denver County Department of Human Services, Denver, CO
- Family Assistance Administration SC113C, Phoenix, AZ
- Family Assistance Administration, St. Johns, AZ
- Food Stamp Office (F14), New York, NY
- Garrett County Department of Social Services, Oakland, MD
- Hartford District Economic Services Office, White River Junction, VT
- Social and Rehabilitation Services West Region, Hays, KS
- Kansas City Metro Social and Rehabilitation Services, Kansas City, KS
- Lake County Human Services Department, Two Harbors, MN
- Onondaga County Department of Social Services, Syracuse, NY
- Oregon Department of Human Services (Clackamas County, Klamath Falls and Lake County, Portland, Salem, Washington County, NW Seniors and Disability Services Salem and Dallas Offices), OR
- Patrick County Department of Social Services, Stuart, VA
- Prince Edward County Department of Social Services, Farmville, VA
- Santa Clara County Dept. of Employment and Benefit Services, San Jose, CA
- Schenectady County DSS /Food Stamp Unit, Schenectady, NY
- Nebraska DHHS, Southeastern Service Area, Lincoln, NE
- St. Louis County and St. Louis City County Offices, St. Louis, MO
- Summers County Department of Health and Human Services, Hinton, WV
- Wayne County Department of Human Services, Detroit, MI
- Washington County Department of Human Resources, Hagerstown, MD
- Worcester County Department of Social Services, Snow Hill, MD
- Yazoo County Department of Human Services, Yazoo City, MS